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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,543

Applicant(s)

NISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Leonid Shapиро

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-7, 27 and 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-24 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 8, 9, 10, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakae et al, United States Patent Application Publication US 2004/0166829 A1 (hereinafter referred to as the "Nakae Publication") and further in view of Chiang et al. (4,598,305).
2. With regard to claim 8, the Nakae Publication clearly teaches **a portable information tool** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraphs [0032]-[0036], mobile communication terminal 1) **comprising: a first housing** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], subhousing 11) **and a second housing** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], subhousing 12) **coupled together through a hinge portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], hinge unit 23) **wherein the first housing includes a first display portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], main display unit 13) **and a second display portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], sub-display unit 21) **provided on different surfaces** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], sub-display unit 21 is provided on the outside surface the main display unit 13 is on the inside); **wherein the**

second housing includes an operation portion (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], operating unit 36); **wherein the first display portion and the operation portion are foldable so as to face each other** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033]-[0035], inner and outer surfaces); **and wherein the portable information tool comprises a photodetector** (see page 4, paragraph [0077]).

The Nakae Publication differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication does not fully teach wherein the first housing includes a first display portion being visible from a first side of the first housing and a second display being visible from a second side of the first housing opposite to the first side including at least a first detector element and a second detector element connected in parallel wherein the first detector element detects light from the first side, and wherein the second detector element detects light from the second side.

In the same field of endeavor, Chiang et al. clearly teaches wherein the first housing includes a first display portion being visible from a first side of the first housing and a second display being visible from a second side of the first housing opposite to the first side including at least a first detector element and a second detector element connected in parallel wherein the first detector element detects light from the first side, and wherein the second detector element detects light from the second side (figs. 1,8, items 12,22, col. 3, lines 32-45 and col. 8, lines 1-18),

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the detecting elements as

taught by Chiang et al. into the device of the Nakae Publication because both are within the same field of endeavor, and in order to sense light through the substrate (col. 3, lines 37-40 in the Chiang et al. reference).

3. With regard to claim 9, the Nakae Publication clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8, wherein the photodetector is provided in the first housing** (see Nakae Publication FIG. 1C; further described at page 4, paragraphs [0077]-[0078]).

4. With regard to claim 10, the Nakae Publication clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8, wherein the photodetector is provided in the second housing** (see Nakae Publication FIG. 1C; further described at page 4, paragraphs [0077]-[0078]).

5. With regard to claim 15, the Nakae Publication clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein each of the first display portion and the second display portion is formed by a liquid crystal display device or an EL display device** (see Nakae Publication page 3, paragraph [0057]).

6. With regard to claim 16, the Nakae Publication clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the first display portion and the second display portion are formed by a display device capable of emitting light from both surfaces** (see Nakae Publication page 3, paragraph [0057]).

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Koops et al., United States Patent Number US 6,504,143 B1 (hereinafter referred to as "Koops '143").

8. With regard to claim 11, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above).

9. The Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. does not fully teach **the photodetector is provided under operation buttons having light-transparent property of the operation portion.**

10. In the same field of endeavor, Koops '143 clearly teaches **wherein the photodetector is provided under operation buttons having light-transparent property of the operation portion** (see Koops '143, at column 4, lines 24-55, lenses 9 further illustrated in FIG. 1).

11. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the operation buttons as taught by Koops '143 into the device of Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. because all are within the same field of endeavor and furthermore, Koops '143 clearly improves selection of an operation button, a commonly shared goal within the art (see column 1, lines 33-67).

12. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. and further in view of Helms, United States Patent Number US 5,952, 992 B2 (hereinafter referred to as "Helms '992")

13. With regard to claim 12, the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the plurality of detector elements include a first detector element and a second detector element** (as disclosed in Chiang et al., it would be obvious to independently operate the photodetectors as connected in parallel for the commonly understood benefits of operating the device in multiple modes.

14. Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. does not explicitly teach **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened and wherein the second detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded.**

15. In the same field of endeavor, Helms '992 clearly teaches **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 further illustrated in FIG. 4) **and wherein the second detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67; it would be obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the second detector is capable of detecting ambient light when apparatus is folded).

16. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the detecting elements as taught by Helms '992 into the device of the Nakae Publication because both are within the same field of endeavor, and furthermore because of the commonly understood benefits as taught by Helms '992, including automated lighting controls, conserved battery power, extended periods of use between battery charging, and a generally improved user-friendly application (see Helms '992 at column 2, lines 8-50).

17. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. in view of Helms '992 and further in view of Nakamura, United States Patent Number US 6,269, 256 B1 (hereinafter referred to as "Nakamura '256").

18. With regard to claim 13, the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the plurality of detector elements include a first detector element and a second detector element** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 describing a first photodetector 14' and a second photodetector 410; illustrated in FIG. 4); **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67); **and the second detector element**

detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67, capable of detecting ambient light when apparatus is folded).

19. The Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. in view of Helms '992 does not fully teach **the first detector element detects the brilliance in the first display portion where the first housing and the second housing are folded.**

20. In the same field of endeavor, Nakamura '256 clearly teaches **the first detector element detects the brilliance in the first display portion where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection folded at column 3, lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B).

21. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the light detection as taught by Nakamura '256 into the device of the Nakae Publication in view Chiang et al. in view of Helms '992 because all are within the same field of endeavor, and additionally because Nakamura '256 clearly provides a method of optical detection to improve power consumption a commonly shared goal within the art (see Nakamura '256 at column 2, lines 36-42).

22. With regard to claim 14, the Nakae Publication in view of Chiang et al. in view of Helms '992 and further in view of Nakamura '256 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the plurality of detector elements include a first detector element, a second detector element**

(see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 describing a first photodetector 14' and a second photodetector 410; illustrated in FIG. 4) **and a third detector element** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection folded at column 3, lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B); **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67); **and wherein the second detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 capable of detecting illumination when folded) **and the third detector element detects a brilliance of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection folded at column 3, lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B).

Allowable Subject Matter

23. Claims 17-26 are allowed.

Relative to claim 17 the major difference between the teaching of the prior art of record (Nakai et al., Chiang et al.) and the instant invention is that a second means for displaying by controlling a brilliance of the first display portion depending upon a result detected by the first means; a third means for detecting an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second

housing are folded; and a fourth means for displaying by adjusting a brilliance of the second display portion depending upon a result detected by the third means.

Claims 18-23 depend on claim 17.

Relative to claim 24,26 the major difference between the teaching of the prior art of record (Nakai et al., Chiang et al.) and the instant invention is displaying by controlling [[an]] a brilliance of the first display portion depending upon the first result of detection; obtaining a second result of detection by detecting an intensity of illumination on a side of a second display portion using a second detector element in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded; and displaying by adjusting [[an]] a brilliance of the second display portion depending upon the second result of detection.

Claim 25 depends on claim 24.

Response to Arguments

24. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Telephone inquire

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonid Shapiro whose telephone number is 571-272-7683. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

01.04.09
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